

ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

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EXECUTIVE DOCUMENT.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MESSAGE

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

At the commencement of the Third Session of the 25th Congress.

NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY.

With respect to the northeastern boundary of the United States, no official correspondence between this Government and that of Great Britain has passed since that communicated to Congress towards the close of their last session. The offer to negotiate a convention for the appointment of a joint commission of survey and exploration, I am, however, assured will be met by her Majesty's Government in a conciliatory and friendly spirit, and instructions to enable the British Minister here to conclude such an arrangement will be transmitted to him without needless delay. It is hoped and expected that these instructions will be of a liberal character, and that this negotiation, if successful, will prove to be an important step towards the satisfactory and final adjustment of the controversy.

CANADA.

I had hoped that the respect for the laws and regard for the peace and honor of their own country, which has ever characterized the citizens of the United States, would have prevented any portion of them from using any means to promote insurrection in the territory of a power with which we are at peace, and with which the United States are desirous of maintaining the most friendly relations. I regret deeply, however, to be obliged to inform you that this has not been the case. Information has been given to me, derived from official and other sources, that many citizens of the United States have associated together to make hostile incursions from our territory into Canada, and to aid and abet insurrection there, in violation of the obligations and laws of the United States, and in open disregard of their own duties as citizens. This information has been in part confirmed, by a hostile invasion actually made by citizens of the United States, in conjunction with Canadians and others, and accompanied by a forcible seizure of the property of our citizens, and an application thereof to the prosecution of military operations against the authorities and people of Canada.

The results of these criminal assaults upon the peace and order of a neighboring country have been, as was to be expected, fatally destructive to the misguided or deluded persons engaged in them, and highly injurious to those in whose behalf they are professed to have been undertaken. The authorities in Canada, from intelligence received of such intended movements among our citizens, have felt themselves obliged to take precautionary measures against them; have actually embodied the militia, and assumed an attitude to repel the invasion to which they believed the colonies were exposed from the United States. A state of feeling on both sides of the frontier has thus been produced, which called for prompt and vigorous interference. If an insurrection existed in Canada, the amicable dispositions of the United States towards Great Britain, as well as their duty to themselves, would lead them to maintain a strict neutrality, and to restrain their citizens from all violations of the laws which have been passed for its enforcement. But this Government recognises a still higher obligation to repress all attempts on the part of its citizens to disturb the peace of a

country where order prevails, or has been re-established. Depredations by our citizens upon nations at peace with the United States, or combinations for committing them, have at all times been regarded by the American Government and people with the greatest abhorrence. Military incursions by our citizens into countries so situated, and the commission of acts of violence on the members thereof, in order to effect a change in its government, or under any pretext whatever, have, from the commencement of our Government, been held equally criminal on the part of those engaged in them, and as much deserving of punishment, as would be the disturbance of the public peace by the perpetration of similar acts within our own territory.

By no country or persons have these invaluable principles of international law—principles, the strict observance of which is so indispensable to the preservation of social order in the world—been more earnestly cherished or sacredly respected than by those great and good men, who first declared, and finally established, the independence of our own country. They promulgated and maintained them at an early and critical period in our history; they were subsequently embodied in legislative enactments of a highly penal character, the faithful enforcement of which has hitherto been, and will, I trust, always continue to be, regarded as a duty inseparably associated with the maintenance of our national honor. That the people of the United States should feel an interest in the spread of political institutions as free as they regard their own to be, is natural; nor can a sincere solicitude for the success of all those who are, at any time, in good faith, struggling for their acquisition, be imputed to our citizens as a crime. With the entire freedom of opinion, and an undisguised expression thereof, on their part, the Government has neither the right, nor, I trust, the disposition to interfere. But whether the interest or the honor of the United States require that they should be made a party to any such struggle, and, by inevitable consequence, to the war which is waged in its support, is a question which, by our Constitution, is wisely left to Congress alone to decide. It is, by the laws, already made criminal in our citizens to embarrass or anticipate that decision, by authorized military operations on their part. Offences of this character, in addition to their criminality as violations of the laws of our country, have a direct tendency to draw down upon our own citizens at large the multiplied evils of a foreign war, and expose to injurious imputations the good faith and honor of the country. As such they deserve to be put down with promptitude and decision. I cannot be mistaken, I am confident, in counting on the cordial and general concurrence of our fellow-citizens in this sentiment. A copy of the proclamation which I have felt it my duty to issue, is herewith communicated. I cannot but hope that the good sense and patriotism, the regard for the honor and reputation of their country, the respect for the laws which they have themselves enacted for their own government, and the love of order for which the mass of our people have been so long and so justly distinguished, will deter the comparatively few who are engaged in them, from a further prosecution of such desperate enterprises. In the meantime, the existing laws have been, and will continue to be, faithfully executed; and every effort will be made to carry them out in their full extent. Whether they are sufficient or not, to meet the actual state of things, on the Canadian frontier, it is for Congress to decide.

THE ARMY.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of War presents a satisfactory account of the state of the army, and of the several branches of the public service confided to the superintendence of that officer.

The law increasing and organizing the military establishment of the United States has been nearly carried into effect, and the army has been extensively and usefully employed during the past season.

I would again call to your notice the subjects connected with, and essential to, the military defences of the country, which were submitted to you at the last session; but which were not acted upon, as is supposed, for want of time. The most important of them is the organization of the militia on the maritime and inland frontiers. This measure is deemed important, as it is believed that it will furnish an effective volunteer force in aid of the regular army, and may form the basis for a general system of organization for the entire militia of the United States. The erection of a national foundry and gunpowder manufactory, and one for making small arms, the latter to be situated at some point west of the Alleghany mountains, all appear to be of sufficient importance to be again urged upon your attention.

The plan proposed by the Secretary of War for the distribution of the forces of the United States in time of peace, is well calculated to promote regularity and economy in the fiscal administration of the service, to preserve the discipline of the troops, and to render them available for the maintenance of the peace and tranquility of the country. With this view, likewise, I recommend the adoption of the plan presented by that officer for the defence of the western frontier. The preservation of the lives and property of our fellow-citizens who are settled upon that border country, as well as the existence of the Indian population, which might be tempted by our want of preparation to rush on their own destruction and attack the white settlements, all seem to require that this subject should be acted upon, without delay, and the War Department authorized to place that country in a state of complete defence against any assault from the numerous and warlike tribes which are congregated on that border.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

It affords me sincere pleasure to be able to apprise you of the entire removal of the Cherokee nation of Indians to their new homes west of the Mississippi. The measures authorized by Congress at its last session with a view to the long standing controversy with them, had the happiest effects. By an agreement concluded with them by the commanding general in that country, who has performed the duties assigned to him on the occasion with commendable energy and humanity, their removal has been principally under the conduct of their own chiefs, and they have emigrated without any apparent reluctance.

The successful accomplishment of this important object; the removal, also, of the entire Creek nation, with the exception of a small number of fugitives amongst the Seminoles in Florida; the progress already made towards a speedy completion of the removal of the Chickasaws, the Choctaws, the Pottawatamies, the Ottawas, and the Chippewas, with the extensive purchases of Indian lands during the present year, have rendered the speedy and successful result of the long established policy of the Government upon the subject of Indian affairs entirely certain. The occasion is, therefore, deemed a proper one to place this policy in such a point of view as will exonerate the Government of the United States from the undeserved reproach which has been cast upon it through several successive administrations. That a mixed occupancy of the same territory, by the white and red man, is incompatible with the safety or happiness of either, is a position in respect to which there has long since ceased to be

room for a difference of opinion. Reason and experience have alike demonstrated its impracticability. The bitter fruits of every attempt heretofore to overcome the barriers interposed by nature, have only been destruction, both physical and moral, to the Indian; dangerous conflicts of authority between the Federal and State Governments; and detriment to the individual prosperity of the citizen, as well as to the general improvement of the country. The remedial policy, the principles of which were settled more than thirty years ago, under the administration of Mr. Jefferson, consists in an extinction, for a fair consideration, of the title to all the lands still occupied by the Indians within the States and Territories of the United States; their removal to a country west of the Mississippi, much more extensive, and better adapted to their condition than that on which they then resided; the guarantee to them, by the United States, of their exclusive possession of that country forever, exempt from all intrusion by white men, with ample provisions for their security against external violence and internal dissensions, and the extension to them of suitable facilities for their advancement in civilization. This has not been the policy of particular administrations only, but of each in succession, since the first attempt to carry it out under that of Mr. Monroe. All have labored for its accomplishment, only with different degrees of success. The manner of its execution has, it is true, from time to time, given rise to conflicts of opinion and unjust imputations; but in respect to the wisdom and necessity of the policy itself, there has not, from the beginning, existed a doubt in the mind of any calm, judicious, disinterested friend of the Indian race, accustomed to reflection and enlightened by experience.

Occupying the double character of contractor on its own account, and guardian for the parties contracted with, it was hardly to be expected that the dealings of the Federal Government with the Indian tribes would escape misrepresentation. That there occurred in the early settlement of this country, as in all others where the civilized race has succeeded to the possessions of the savage, instances of oppression and fraud on the part of the former, there is too much reason to believe. No such offences can, however, be justly charged upon this Government since it became free to pursue its own course. Its dealings with the Indian tribes have been just and friendly throughout; its efforts for their civilization constant, and directed by the best feeling of humanity; its watchfulness in protecting them from individual frauds unremitting; its forbearance under the keenest provocations, the deepest injuries, and the most flagrant outrages, may challenge at least a comparison with any nation, ancient or modern, in similar circumstances; and if, in future times, a powerful, civilized, and happy nation of Indians shall be found to exist within the limits of this northern continent, it will be owing to the consummation of that policy which has been so unjustly assailed. Only a very brief reference to facts in confirmation of this assertion can in this form be given, and you are, therefore, necessarily referred to the report of the Secretary of War for further details. To the Cherokees, whose case has perhaps excited the greatest share of attention and sympathy, the United States have granted in fee, with a perpetual guarantee of exclusive and peaceable possession, 13,554,135 acres of land, on the west side of the Mississippi, eligibly situated, in a healthy climate, and in all respects better suited to their condition than the country they have left, in exchange for only 9,492,160 acres on the east side of the same river. The United States have, in addition, stipulated to pay them five million six hundred thousand dollars for their interest in, and improvements on, the lands thus relinquished, and one million one hundred and sixty thousand dollars for subsistence and other beneficial purposes, there-

by putting in their power to become one of the most wealthy and independent separate communities, of the same extent, in the world.

By the treaties made and ratified with the Miamies, the Chippewas, the Sioux, the Sacs and Foxes, and the Winnebagoes, during the last year, the Indian title to eighteen million four hundred and fifty-eight thousand acres has been extinguished. These purchases have been much more extensive than those of any previous year, and have, with other Indian expenses, borne very heavily upon the Treasury. They leave, however, but a small quantity of unbought Indian lands within the States and Territories; and the Legislature and Executive were equally sensible of the propriety of a final and more speedy extinction of Indian titles within those limits. The treaties which were, with a single exception, made in pursuance of previous appropriations, for defraying the expenses, have subsequently been ratified by the Senate, and received the sanction of Congress, by the appropriations necessary to carry them into effect. Of the terms upon which these important negotiations were concluded, I can speak from direct knowledge, and I feel no difficulty in affirming that the interest of the Indians in the extensive territory embraced by them, is to be paid for at its fair value, and that no more favorable terms have been granted to the United States than would have been reasonably expected in a negotiation with civilized men, fully capable of appreciating and protecting their own rights. For the Indian title to 116,349,897 acres acquired since the 4th of March, 1829, the United States have paid \$72,560,056, in permanent annuities, lands, reservations for Indians, expenses of removal and subsistence, merchandise, mechanical and agricultural establishments, and implements. When the heavy expenses incurred by the United States, and the circumstance that so large a portion of the entire territory will be forever unsaleable, are considered, and this price is compared with that for which the United States sell their own lands, no one can doubt that justice has been done to the Indians in these purchases also. Certain it is, that the transactions of the Federal Government with the Indians have been uniformly characterized by a sincere and paramount desire to promote their welfare; and it must be a source of the highest gratification to every friend to justice and humanity to learn that, notwithstanding the obstructions from time to time thrown in its way, and the difficulties which have arisen from the peculiar and impracticable nature of the Indian character, the wise, humane, and undeviating policy of the Government in this, the most difficult of all our relations, foreign or domestic, has at length been justified to the world in its near approach to a happy and certain consummation.

The condition of the tribes which occupy the country set apart for them in the west is highly prosperous, and encourages the hope of their early civilization. They have, for the most part, abandoned the hunter state, and turned their attention to agricultural pursuits. All those who have been established for any length of time in that fertile region maintain themselves by their own industry. There are among them traders of no inconsiderable capital, and planters exporting cotton to some extent; but the greater number are small agriculturists, living in comfort upon the produce of their farms. The recent emigrants, although they have in some instances removed reluctantly, have readily acquiesced in their unavoidable destiny. They have found at once a recompense for past sufferings, and an incentive to industrious habits, in the abundance and comforts around them. There is reason to believe that all these tribes are friendly in their feelings towards the United States, and it is to be hoped that the acquisition of individual wealth, the pursuits of agriculture and habits of industry will gradually subdue their warlike propensities, and incline them to maintain

peace among themselves. To effect this desirable object, the attention of Congress is solicited to the measures recommended by the Secretary of War for their future government and protection, as well from each other as from the hostility of the warlike tribes around them, and the intrusions of the whites. The policy of the Government has given them a permanent home, and guaranteed to them its peaceful and undisturbed possession. It only remains to give them a government and laws which will encourage industry, and secure to them the rewards of their exertions. The importance of some form of government cannot be too much insisted upon. The earliest effects will be to diminish the causes and occasions for hostilities among the tribes, to inspire an interest in the observance of laws to which they will have themselves assented, and to multiply the securities of property, and the motives for self-improvement. Intimately connected with this subject is the establishment of the military defences recommended by the Secretary of War, which have been already referred to. Without them, the Government will be powerless to redeem its pledges of protection to the emigrating Indians against the numerous warlike tribes that surround them, and to provide for the safety of the frontier settlers of the bordering States.

The case of the Seminoles constitutes at present the only exception to the successful efforts of the Government to remove the Indians to the homes assigned them west of the Mississippi. Four hundred of this tribe emigrated in 1836, and fifteen hundred in 1837 and 1838, leaving in the country, it is supposed, about 2,000 Indians. The continued treacherous conduct of these people; the savage and unprovoked murders they have lately committed, butchering whole families of the settlers of the Territory, without distinction of age or sex, and making their way into the very centre and heart of the country, so that no part of it is free from their ravages; their frequent attacks on the light-houses along that dangerous coast; and the barbarity with which they have murdered the passengers and crews of such vessels as have been wrecked upon the reefs and keys which border the Gulf, leave the Government no alternative but to continue the military operations against them until they are totally expelled from Florida.

There are other motives which would urge the Government to pursue this course towards the Seminoles. The United States have fulfilled in good faith all their treaty stipulations with the Indian tribes, and have, in every other instance, insisted upon a like performance of their obligations. To relax from this salutary rule because the Seminoles have maintained themselves so long in the territory they have relinquished, and, in defiance of their frequent and solemn engagements, still continue to wage a ruthless war against the United States, would not only evince a want of constancy on our part, but be of evil example in our intercourse with other tribes. Experience has shown that but little is to be gained by the march of armies through a country so intersected with inaccessible swamps and marshes, and which, from the fatal character of the climate, must be abandoned at the end of the winter. I recommend, therefore, to your attention, the plan submitted by the Secretary of War in the accompanying report, for the permanent occupation of the portion of the Territory freed from the Indians, and the more efficient protection of the people of Florida from their inhuman warfare.

THE NAVY.

From the report of the Secretary of the Navy, herewith transmitted, it will appear that a large portion of the disposable naval force is either actively employed, or in a state of preparation for the purposes of experience and discipline, and the protection of our commerce. So effectual has been this

protection, that, so far as the information of Government extends, not a single outrage has been attempted on a vessel carrying the flag of the United States, within the present year, in any quarter, however distant or exposed.

The exploring expedition sailed from Norfolk on the 19th of August last, and information has been received of its safe arrival at the island of Madeira. The best spirit animates the officers and crews, and there is every reason to anticipate, from its efforts, results beneficial to commerce and honorable to the nation.

It will also be seen that no reduction of the force now in commission is contemplated. The unsettled state of a portion of South America renders it indispensable that our commerce should receive protection in that quarter; the vast and increasing interests embarked in the trade of the Indian and China seas, in the whale fisheries of the Pacific ocean, and in the Gulf of Mexico, require equal attention to their safety; and a small squadron may be employed to great advantage on our Atlantic coast, in meeting sudden demands for the reinforcement of other stations, in aiding merchant vessels in distress, in affording active service to an additional number of officers, and in visiting the different ports of the United States, an accurate knowledge of which is obviously of the highest importance.

The attention of Congress is respectfully called to that portion of the report recommending an increase in the number of smaller vessels, and to other suggestions contained in that document. The rapid increase and wide expansion of our commerce, which is every day seeking new avenues of profitable adventure; the absolute necessity of a naval force for its protection, precisely in the degree of its extension; a due regard to the national rights and honor; the recollection of its former exploits, and the anticipation of its future triumphs whenever opportunity presents itself, which we may rightfully indulge from the experience of the past, all seem to point to the navy as a most efficient arm of our national defence, and a proper object of legislative encouragement.

MISCELLANY.

From the New York Courier, Dec. 1.
THE OHIO, SEVENTY-FOUR.

On Wednesday we published a paragraph calling upon some one acquainted with the circumstances, for a detail of all the facts connected with the rumored infringement of the rights of the junior officers of this noble ship. Our call has been responded to, and in to-day's paper will be found the official correspondence on the subject, together with a brief review of that correspondence by an officer of the Navy, which we adopt as our own, and for which we alone are responsible.

Mr. PAULDING has probably committed an error in judgment, in yielding so nice a point as the present, to the decision of persons so interested in the question as the Navy Commissioners.

But to the facts of the grievance of which the officers of the Ohio complain. It has been the custom in our service, as it is made obligatory in the *English*, for the Commodore and his Captain to mess together, and occupy the same cabin, in a line-of-battle ship. This arrangement throws the ward room on the gun, or second deck, in which the Lieutenants, Chaplain, Surgeons, Purser, &c., are accommodated. In the case of the Ohio, however, the Commodore has permission to take out his lady and her two sisters—an arrangement which would prove highly satisfactory to all the officers of that ship, if, as should have been the case, they had been content with sharing the Commodore's accommodations, which were spacious and ample. But instead of this being the case, the whole of the upper deck is appropriated to the Com-

modore and his family; in consequence of which the Captain and the Commander are compelled to take possession of the second deck, and all the ward room officers thrust into the orlop deck, where, after leaving port, the light of Heaven never reaches. Thus no less than sixty-three commissioned and warrant officers are thrust out of position, and the *esprit du corps* of gallant officers trampled upon and destroyed. All who know any thing of the officers of our Army and Navy, must be aware that with them rank, and the rights and privileges it confers, is every thing, while mere pecuniary considerations are almost totally disregarded. Their pay is a mere pittance; and their only reward is in serving their country, and in the privileges and immunities which follow in the train of promotion. While a nation respects the rights and privileges which long service and rank confer on its naval and military officers, its Army and Navy will always be found active, respectable, and efficient; but let them be trifled with—let them once be taught to feel that they are no longer respected by their country or their Government—and those who have heretofore so nobly sustained our stars and stripes on the land and on the ocean, will soon give place to a set of "cobblers and tinkers," to whom such oppression has no terrors, and whose only object will be the mere pay, which, thank God, is the last consideration which enters into the calculations of our present officers.

The case in question is one, which in our opinion, is calculated forever to destroy the high character and usefulness of our navy, if it be not nipped in the bud. And of such serious import is it in our estimation, that we hope some friend of the Navy and of the country will, on the assembling of Congress, promptly bring the question before that body, and if practicable, delay the sailing of the Ohio, until the gross evil which the accompanying correspondence exposes be corrected. The decision of the Navy Board is an interested one, having in view accommodation of officers of their rank, and not the good of the service; and they well know, that the experiment which they are now making, has been tried and discarded from both the *English* and *French* service as being altogether too aristocratical and too exclusive for even those monarchical governments. It would have destroyed the navies of these two great powers, if it had been persisted in; and it cannot fail to destroy ours, if those whose duty it is to watch over this favorite arm of the national defence, do not come promptly to the rescue. The length of the very able commentary accompanying the documents renders further remark from us unnecessary, and we therefore conclude with an earnest request that all our readers will give these documents and the comments upon them, a careful perusal.

LETTER No. 1.

U. S. SHIP OHIO,
New York, October 20, 1838. }

To the Hon. J. K. PAULDING,
Secretary of the Navy.

Sir: We, the gun-room officers of the Ohio, beg leave to lay before you a statement of facts in relation to the quarters which have been allotted to us on board this ship.

In so doing we are impelled by no other than proper motives—motives which spring from what we conceive to be due to our rank, to the discipline of the service, the efficiency of the ship, and our natural physical wants.

In the first place, rooms on the orlop deck have been assigned to us, where neither light nor air can penetrate, and in none of which under the most favorable circumstances can candle light be dispensed with. The closeness of these apartments is such, that our experienced Fleet surgeon gives it most unhesitatingly as his opinion that serious ill-health must ensue to the occupants during a three years' cruise. This opinion is confirmed by that of every medical officer who has seen this new system of accommodations introduced into our line of battle ships.

If our objections were limited to this view of the subject, we should feel ourselves compelled to forego them, knowing that these and greater sacrifices may be claimed from us, if the efficiency of the service be thereby promoted. But we humbly submit that the very reverse of this is the fact.

In the ordinary duties of the ship, requiring the presence of all hands, in going to quarters, in case of fire squalls, or any other sudden emergency, the sea officers instead of heading or leading the crew, must inevitably be the last to reach their respective stations. In case of a mutiny, a dozen men could with perfect ease, and in a moment of time, completely cut off all communication between the commander and the few officers of the watch, and all other officers of every grade.

The arrangement of which we complain had its origin in the French navy, but was soon abandoned on the score of health; or the few ships in which it has been retained were sufficiently high to admit of large air ports being cut, affording ample light and ventilation. This, however, if practicable in our vessels, would not remove, in our opinion, the objections connected with the discipline or police of the ship. But should you, sir, consider the reasons assigned by the Navy Commissioners valid, we most earnestly request that the whole plan may be carried out as ordered by these officers themselves, and that it may not be deprived of what we conceive its only palliative, the occupancy of the after part of the main gun-deck as a mess room.

The North Carolina was so fitted when she last sailed from the United States. Her officers were as strenuously opposed to the orlop as ourselves, but became in a measure reconciled in consequence of having an airy apartment where reading and writing could be done by daylight, and which, during the summer heats, can be used as a temporary sleeping place. The Ohio was also fitted in the same manner by Com. Ridgely at this yard, and subsequently approved on inspection, by the Commissioners; but at Boston we were deprived of that part of the main gun-deck destined for our mess-room, and the gun room officers sent to mess in the lower gun deck, displacing in their turn, the large messes of Passed Midshipmen, and Midshipmen, who have now to live altogether on the orlop.

We have delayed making this communication, being desirous of giving the new arrangement a fair trial. Our passage from Boston afforded this, and after mature deliberation, we feel it a duty we owe to ourselves, to our brother officers who may follow us in this class of ships, and to the service generally, to request of you to investigate the matter, confident that your decision will be based upon strict justice, and whatever may be due to the true interest of the navy.

We have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,

Your obt^s serv^{ts},

G. I. PENDERGRAST, *Lieut.*
SAMUEL MERCER, *Lieut.*
S. F. DU PONT, *Lieut.*
WM. L. HOWARD, *Lieut.*
R. L. BROWNING, *Lieut.*
J. S. MISSROON, *Lieut.*
ALFRED TAYLOR, *Lieut.*
G. GANSEVOORT, *Lieut.*
B. TICKNOR, *Fleet Surgeon.*
WM SINCLAIR, *Purser.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT, 18th Nov., 1838.

SIR: The communication of the 4th inst. from Captain Smith, relative to the quarters assigned to the gun-room officers on board the U. S. ship Ohio, and one of the 30th ult. from the officers themselves, upon the same subject, were both referred to the Board of Navy Commissioners.

In answer to the reference, the Commissioners have forwarded to the Department the enclosed Report, in which I fully concur. I request that the report may be laid before Captain Smith and the other officers of the Ohio.

I am, sir, very respectfully, &c.,

J. K. PAULDING.

Commo. ISAAC HULL, *Com'g U. S. Naval Forces in the Mediterranean—New York.*

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
15th November, 1838.

SIR: The Board have received your letter of the 8th inst., covering a letter from Commodore Hull, in which

he transmitted one from the gun-room officers of the Ohio, in relation to their accommodations in that ship, together with one from Captain Smith, upon the same subject, and in compliance with your instructions, have the honor to state—

That in the statement made by the gun-room officers, the Board cannot concur in all their representations of facts as they have set them forth, as they seem to require the addition of material circumstances; nor do the Board entirely concur with the officers in several of the opinions assigned by them in support of their objections to the arrangement of the officers' apartments in the Ohio, and other ships of the line. These arrangements were originally adopted by the Board upon the suggestion of officers upon foreign stations, and from the belief, that the efficiency of the ships would be materially increased, by having the lower gun-deck kept free from the personal baggage of the officers, and the incumbrances which would be necessary to accommodate it.

The objections made by the officers are, the want of light and air, the distance from their quarters, and other stations, and their liability to be separated from their commander in case of mutiny.

The objection of a want of light is well founded; the want of ventilation will be materially diminished by the measures already commenced.

The objection of the distance of the sea officers from their quarters and other stations, rests upon the assumption, that the officers will, of necessity, be obliged to occupy these apartments as sleeping berths, which necessity need not exist, since it is in the power of the commander of the ship, to allow them to sleep in cots upon the lower gun-deck, if, in his opinion, their health, or any other cause should render such course expedient. The after part of this deck, which is now appropriated to their use as a mess-room, would be available for this purpose, and at all times for reading or writing, if they should prefer that apartment to their own special room below. This arrangement would also obviate the alleged danger from mutiny; but upon this point, the Board are not willing to believe such an event sufficiently probable to justify any express arrangement in reference to it: nor that any arrangements for the accommodation of the officers could be made effectual to suppress it, if one should unfortunately occur.

The terms of the letter from the officers would seem to imply, that the officers of the North Carolina were allowed the use of an airy apartment, supposed to be the after part of the main deck, to reconcile them to the arrangement of their separate rooms on the orlop; such, however, does not appear to have been the case.

The ward room officers were allowed that part of the ship for their mess room, as a matter of course, because the commander of the squadron was also the commander of the ship, and one cabin only was required; such also would be the case in any other ship of the line, where the same state of commands existed, or where there was no commander of a squadron; but, by general usage, when a commander of a squadron and a proper captain of the ship are both in the same vessel, and they are not disposed to mess together, two cabins are required, and the captain of the ship then takes the apartment on the main deck, and the gun-room officers mess upon the deck below.

When the Ohio was fitted in New York, it was not determined how or under what circumstances she should be employed. The Board are not aware of having expressly approved of the arrangements at that time, and certainly could not have done so with reference to the distribution of the gun-deck accommodations, as they were unacquainted with the officers who might have to be accommodated.

When arranged at Boston, the distribution was made according to universal usage, and the ward room officers, as a matter of course, had their mess room assigned on the lower gun deck.

To accede to the request of the officers and place their mess room on the main deck, would be to deprive the captain of the ship of his proper apartments, for the purpose of giving better accommodations to those under his command, a measure believed to be inconsistent with general usage, and by no means calculated to promote some of the essential interests of the service.

With the acknowledged authority of the commander to allow the officers to sleep in cots upon the gun-deck, if he should deem it advisable, the Board do not perceive any such reason to apprehend danger to the health of

the officers, nor any such probable injury to the efficiency, safety, or discipline of the ship, as to require a change of the present arrangements, at least until this shall have been subjected to a longer trial.

The papers are herewith returned.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

I. CHAUNCEY.

Honorable JAMES K. PAULDING,

Secretary of the Navy.

COMMENTS.—The Board state that these arrangements were originally adopted at the suggestion of officers upon foreign stations; but the whole Navy know that it would be much nearer the truth to say, that a single ship so fitted, on a single station, met favor in the eyes of a *single officer*—the *commander of a squadron who was cruising with a large family on board of his ship?* And it is now repeated upon information just received from the Mediterranean, that it has been wholly *abandoned* in the French Navy; and this under circumstances, favorable to the success of the experiment, which could not be made available in our vessels.

The Board admit the objection to a want of light to be well founded, but add that the want of ventilation will be materially diminished by the measure already commenced. The anxiety of the Board at Boston to have these ventilators cut is now understood, and the defence made on this point must excite the smile, if not derision, of all who may be conversant with the facts. A more miserable apology for supplying fresh air can scarcely be imagined; a copper tube some two or three inches in diameter is led from the main gun deck, into each state room over every officer's berth; and as four hundred and fifty men sleep upon that deck, with the ports closed and hatchways covered, which must frequently be the case, it will answer admirably well to carry down the irrespirable air and carbonic acid gas generated by so large a body of men. Any tyro in Pneumatics could have informed the Board of this. It is true, the rarified air may occasionally ascend, but officers are rather disposed to dispense with this luxury when they receive in exchange water, filth, and the discarded *weed*, to say nothing of leaving to the crew such an access to their rooms, for the exercise of many pranks with perfect impunity. Plugging up these ventilators has therefore already commenced, occupying much less time than the process of cutting, for it will not be credited by seamen or ship builders, that in executing this scientific operation the dagger knees on the lower gun deck have been severed from the hanging knees, leaving in many instances but an inch of wood at their junction.

The numerous, powerful and incontrovertible objections to the sea officers being placed below the crew, the Board attempted to surmount by suggesting that the officers are not necessarily compelled to sleep in the rooms and berths allotted for this purpose; for, should the Commander *'deem it expedient,'* they may be permitted to rise, take up their beds, and walk to the lower gun deck to hang their cots. For this act of grace, the officers of the Ohio, some of whom have been five and twenty years in the service, should be profoundly grateful. But the Board go on to specify the *modus* of this migration, by saying that the present mess room would be available for this purpose, and for reading and writing at all times. It would be amusing to see the Board enter that mess room with square, rule, and compass, to mark off places for some eighteen cots, aye for over one-third of that number; their science would fail them here as much as in the case of the ventilators. Details escape men who have been twenty years consecutively on shore. The Board forget that the tiller sweeps over one-third of that apartment; that the wheel ropes traverse another third of it; and that the guns, mizen mast and staun-

cheons, leave bare room for setting the mess table. The Board however, may be helped out of this dilemma, by being reminded that, just outside of the mess room, the marines hang their hammocks, and as they are suspended near the beams, room might doubtless be found to hang the lieutenants' cots under them. The Board must also be reminded that the apartment on the lower gun deck, is nearly as dark at sea as the orlop, lamps and candles are always burnt, and the objection of the officers, that all reading and writing has to be effected by light from these sources, is therefore not answered.

But of all the weak points in the reply of the Board, the mutiny clause is certainly the most lame and unmilitary. These gentlemen will not allow such an event to be sufficiently probable to justify any express arrangement with reference to it; nor that any arrangement for the accommodation of the officers could be made effectual to suppress it should one unfortunately occur. It may be remarked, by the way, that whenever it suits the Board to fall back upon the doctrine of probabilities, they can do so; but when, for example, it has been suggested that in a state of profound peace, a little augmentation might be made to the accommodation of officers, as practiced in every other service, the Board become very warlike, and entrench themselves under contingent possibilities. The Navy Commissioners, however, have not been called upon to make *express* arrangements, but are only asked not to break down those of long existence. A mutiny not sufficiently probable, eh! While our laws and regulations, read monthly on the quarter deck, are filled with provisions and penalties against this crime! Under what ceremony and caution is punishment administered in a ship of war? What has occurred in our very waters, on board of a noble frigate this very year? And is it possible that the seamen and officers composing this Board, cannot conceive that the location of officers in a ship may exert the strongest moral influence in such a case? Can they not imagine what might be effected, if the well disposed portion of a crew found their officers at hand ready to head and lead them? On this point we will quote the published opinion of a senior officer of the Navy, acknowledged in and out of the service, to possess far more enlarged views than any member of the Board. In speaking of a serious mutiny which broke out on board of the Constitution in 1807, while lying in Leghorn Roads, Commodore Stewart says: "by the formidable appearance of a column of marine bayonets, supported by nearly a hundred gallant officers armed, it was not only suppressed, but twenty of the ringleaders were secured and sent home in the ship ironed, for punishment." What do the Board think would have been the result of this affair, if the hundred officers had been batted down in a ship's orlop? This is not the place, however, to discuss such a subject, but every practical sea officer knows that the Board have not a plank to stand upon, in the position they have assumed in this matter.

As to the case of the North Carolina, cited by the officers, the paragraph in their letter is misquoted, at least its spirit. It is therefore reaffirmed, that a main gun deck mess room having been adopted as part of the new system, it served in a measure to overcome the objections of those officers to its most odious feature, the berthing on the orlop. The Board go on to say, that the gun room officers of that ship "were allowed that part of their ship for their mess room as a matter of course, because the commander of the squadron was also commander of the ship." This is a flagrant mistake. When the officers joined the North Carolina and took possession of their quarters, Captain Ballard commanded the squadron, and Captain Gallagher commanded the ship, and so continued for a long period of time consumed in fitting her out, until the eve of her departure from the United States; and it has been generally understood that some difference as to

the division of the poop cabin between them, led to the withdrawal of the latter. It never occurred to either of these officers that this matter could be reconciled, by dispossessing the gun room officers from the main gun deck, and convert their apartment into a cabin for the Captain. The only previous instance of this, to the present one under discussion, was in the case of the Commodore already alluded to, as having been the first, and it is believed the only officer who recommended this vile orlop deck arrangement, and who, on going on board of the Delaware, displaced the whole of her officers: that is, the Captain of the ship claimed a separate cabin, in consequence of the Commodore having his family with him. This identical state of things has occurred on board of the Ohio, for it is very well understood that her Captain claims a separate cabin for the same reason. May it not therefore be fairly inferred that this orlop deck arrangement had its origin in our navy, from the means which it afforded to Commodores of taking their families to sea! and it is now about to be consummated for the same purpose, divested of its only redeeming trait—its only palliative—the occupancy of the main gun deck as a mess room; and this to the utter derangement of some fifty officers, commissioned and warranted?

The Board further state that they are not aware of having expressly approved of the arrangements made in New York, and certainly could not have done so with reference to the distribution of the gun deck accommodation, as they were unacquainted with the officers who might have to be accommodated. Now it is positively asserted upon the authority of the Commander of this station, that the Commissioners did expressly approve of the arrangements at that time; and that too with reference to there being a Captain to the ship other than the Commodore, for they suggested that a door, leading to the apartments reserved on that deck for the former, should be so placed as not to communicate with the mess room of the Lieutenants! It is further asserted upon the authority of an officer of rank attached to the New York Navy Yard, that Commodore Morris, while defending this berthing on the Orlop, said: "It must be recollected that according to the present arrangement, there will be no messing on that deck, and the air will not be corrupted by the introduction of cooked meats," &c. showing clearly, that it was intended the Past Midshipmen and Midshipmen should occupy the lower gun deck as a mess room, which was fitted for them, but from which they were ejected by the Lieutenants. Really, the Board should not indulge in these lapses of memory, for Congress might feel inclined to create a retired list, instead of a grade of admirals. According to their logic, our ships cannot be fitted up internally, until the officers are ordered—until the Captains make private arrangements, and probably not until it is ascertained whether ladies go in the ship or not! What a burlesque upon military system and propriety?

The Board inform Mr. PAULDING that the alterations made at Boston in the arrangements (of which they had themselves previously approved) were in accordance with "universal usage." How does this matter stand? In all the line of battle ships that have sailed from the country with poops upon them, the officers have always had the main deck for their mess room, with the exception of the second cruise of the Delaware, after the Commodore joined her with his family, and the North Carolina under Commodore Rodgers; but even in the latter ship, there were four rooms on the upper gun deck, though there were a Captain and Commander besides the Commodore, and the lower gun deck used as a mess room and sleeping apartment took in three guns—and this with a veteran officer who was considered *ultra* particular about his batteries. If the Board use the phrase "universal usage" with reference to other navies, they are still further out; and it is now broadly as-

serted, defying contradiction, that in every line of battle ship now afloat, whether *English, French, or Russian*, the lieutenants have a mess room on the main gun deck. And it is further asserted, with a like challenge to contradiction, that the Captains of these ships live with the Admirals, not in pursuance of private agreement, but by *Admiralty regulation*. In the case of the Hercules, recently in our waters, the Commodore, Captain and Prince, messed in the poop cabin, while the gun room officers had the main gun deck, with the addition of comfortable state rooms.

There remains now to be noticed, the reason assigned by the Board for attempting to introduce into the service this detestable system of berthing all the officers of a ship on the orlop deck—degrading the commissioned officers, by sending them to live in the same part of the ship, which some of them have occupied twenty one years ago as midshipmen. They say, these arrangements were originally adopted from the belief that the efficiency of the ships would be materially increased by having the lower gun deck kept clear from the personal baggage of the officers, and the incumbrances which would be necessary to accommodate it: By incumbrances, *bulkheads* are meant, it is presumed. If these are fitted on the English plan, with hinges above and springs beneath, they may be effectually disposed of, in about the time required to throw open so many window shutters in a house. As to the personal baggage, the Board are requested to inform Mr. Paulding which operation, in case of a sudden emergency, would consume most time, passing to the orlop a few trunks, or removing the heavy incumbrances of more solid fixtures from the cabins of the ships, to say nothing of remounting ordnance which may have found a resting place elsewhere. The Board seem to confine their anxiety to keeping the lower deck guns clear; whilst those in the cabins, and which, unlike the batteries below, may be used under all circumstances, escape their vigilance.

Before closing these remarks it may be well to observe that great injustice would be done to the officers of the Ohio, if it were supposed for a moment that any factious spirit prevailed on board that noble ship. A pretty close observation of these gentlemen since their arrival at New York, has convinced us that any delay in attending to their just complaints, respectfully set forth, will in no wise generate the slightest deviation from the active and cheerful performance of their duty. They will be ever ready to stand by and go unto the death for the gallant veteran at their head, and for that amiable and experienced seaman, their immediate commander. Their female shipmates may also rest assured of receiving from them every attention and politeness which good breeding and true honor must ever extend to the sex. But unless these gentlemen have been overrated, they will decline receiving the slightest mitigation of the evils complained of, unless meted to them as *rights*, and not as acts of *courtesy* and *favor*. They will rely confidently to have these secured to them sooner or later, by an order from the President, their commander in chief, or through congressional enactments.

Although in the following letter Captain STOCKTON expresses no opinion on the merits of the controversy between the Commodore and his officers—or rather, we should have said, between the Commodore and the vested rights of the navy—it is well known to us and to all who know Capt. STOCKTON, that he, in common with every officer of the navy, who has the interest and discipline of the navy at heart, looks upon the arrangements on board of the Ohio as oppressive to the officers and highly injurious to the best interest of the navy.—*Ed. Courier & Enquirer.*

U. S. SHIP OHIO, Dec. 4, 1838.

To J. W. WEBB, Esq.

SIR: There appears to be a misapprehension in relation to the matter at issue between the Secretary

of the Navy and the officers of the United States ship Ohio, on the subject of the quarters that have been allotted to those officers on board that ship.

I do not wish to add to the excitement, nor indeed at all to interfere. I simply design to endeavor to correct the error to which I allude. The question is this: Has Commodore Hull, the commander of the Mediterranean squadron, a clear right to the poop cabin of the Ohio, or should he share it with the Captain of the ship, and allot the upper gun deck cabin to the gun room officers? Now, in my judgment, the principles involved in this view of the subject cannot in any manner be affected by the presence or absence of the ladies of the Commodore's family. It does appear to me that they have nothing to do with it—and it is not fair to make them so prominent in the controversy. If the cabin belongs of right to the Commodore, he would violate no ones privileges if he were to reserve it exclusively to himself, provided the ladies were not on board; and so if no such right appertains to him, and he was desirous of having his family on board, he could have accomplished that object, having obtained the permission of the department, by appropriating his portion of the cabin to their use. How then can their presence on board affect that right?

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. F. STOCKTON.

COMMODORE HULL.—It must mortify every true American who remembers how he felt when the news of the capture of the *Guerriere* was received, during a period of the deepest degradation and despondency, to see the charges and insinuations which have lately appeared against this gallant officer, in some of the papers under the direction of the "exclusive friends of the navy."

Justice to him seemed to demand that we should refute them, if untrue; and having made inquiry in the proper quarter, we are enabled to state that the arrangements of the officers of the Ohio were made without the remotest reference to the convenience of Mrs. Hull, or her sister; that no part of that ship was fitted up with that view; and that no officer was displaced from the situation he would have occupied, had there been no ladies on board. Mrs. H. and her sister are, we understand, to reside on shore during the cruise of the Ohio.—*Globe*, Dec. 5.

From the New York Commercial Advertiser.

THE MEMORY OF THE BRAVE.

A late number of the *Fonda Herald*, published in the county of Montgomery, contains an interesting account of the erection of a monument on the 19th October, over the grave of Colonel JOHN BROWN, who fell on that day, fifty-eight years ago, in the battle of Stone Arabia, in the town of Palatine. Sir John Johnson and Thayendanegea, at the head of a large force of British regulars and Indians, were at that time sweeping through the valley of the Mohawk and laying it waste. Gen. Robert Van Rensselaer was in close pursuit with a strong force of the Albany and Claverack militia, and Colonel Brown, who was in command of a small post at Stone Arabia, with a garrison of 200 men, bravely sallied out and attempted to hold Sir John in check until Van Rensselaer came up. Van Rensselaer did not come up in season, as he had promised, and Brown fell at the head of his troops, who were sadly cut up by the enemy. Colonel Brown was a native of Berkshire county, and one of the bravest spirits of the revolution. In the ill-fated Canada campaign of 1776, Col. Brown was engaged, being with Montgomery at his fall under the walls of Quebec. It was in the progress of that campaign that he detected a disposition to treason on the part of Arnold, which he charged home upon him after the return of the officers to Al-

bany—charging the plotting traitor also with cowardice to his face, before the assembled officers in the mess-room—which Arnold did not resent. In the campaign of 1777, the exploits of Brown on the northern frontier, particularly at Ticonderoga, after it fell before the arms of Burgoyne, were very brilliant. His career was closed as we have seen above; and the monument at last erected over his ashes, has been placed there by his son, the late HENRY C. BROWN, for many years Sheriff of Berkshire county. The Rev Abraham Van Horne, of Caughnawaga, who was an officer in the revolution, preached a discourse on the occasion, from the following appropriate text:—Joshua iv. 21, 22. "And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land." A large assemblage of the people were present on the occasion, among whom were many of the descendants of those who fell with Colonel Brown. The venerable Col. Jacob Snell, of Palatine, who was wounded in the battle when Brown was killed, was one of the committee of arrangements.

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest,
With all their country's wishes blest."

OBITUARY.—The Johnstown Republican announces the decease, on the 25th ultimo, of Major THOMAS SAMMONS, in the 78th year of his age. The Republican adds:

"Major Sammons was a soldier of the revolution, and was familiar with the men and the scenes of that eventful period. Through life he would often recur to the time when this, the then county of Tryon, was a border county, and tell of the deeds and the sufferings of our fathers during their struggle for liberty. He lived to see his country great, prosperous, and free. He was much loved and respected by his fellow citizens, and was honored with their confidence, having represented this district for eight years in Congress. He was loved while living, and in death lamented by all who knew him."

This eulogy of the venerable patriot is just, as far as it goes. A more ample notice might have been written, and would have been interesting. Major Sammons was the youngest son of Sampson Sammons, a native of Ulster county, who moved to Johnstown several years prior to the war of the revolution, where he was an opulent farmer at the commencement of that contest. He was an indomitable Whig himself, and had three or four stalwart sons, of the same principles, all of whom, with their father, were actively engaged in that contest—all of whom, father and sons, shared the dangers and vicissitudes of the war. Sampson Sammons received the first shot fired in that contest west of the Hudson river. Their estate was ravaged, and their buildings laid in ashes by Sir John Johnson and the Indians. The whole family were at one time in captivity. Two of the sons were carried into Canada, whence they escaped, and after sufferings sufficient to have crushed the spirits of ordinary men, succeeded in reaching their own country, where the prowess of their arms was again repeatedly felt. One of them was an officer in the furious battle of Oriskany, and many were the forays in which all were engaged. Thomas, the immediate subject of this notice, was young at the breaking out of the war, but he nevertheless did his share of service before its close—having been engaged in repelling the Indians and Tories from Ulster county, and also in the battle and final defeat of Sir John Johnson at Klock's Field, in Palatine. He was a man of strong natural powers, and of inflexible integrity. When in Congress, he was the most distinguished for a stirring off-hand speech in reply to the late Barent Gardenier, which made a great sensation among the people in the northern part of this State.

WASHINGTON CITY;
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1838.

THE OHIO, 74, AND HER JUNIOR OFFICERS.—A large portion of this week's Chronicle is occupied with a publication from the New York Courier and Enquirer, respecting the accommodations allotted to the ward room officers on board this ship; and as the rights and privileges of all the junior officers of the navy are involved in the question, we embrace the earliest occasion to place it before our readers.

The publication in the Courier seems to us to cover the whole ground, and it is therefore unnecessary to accompany it with the comments of the press, which, with an unanimity scarcely surpassed, has joined in a condemnation of the arrangements made by the Navy Department.

The permission occasionally given to commanders of our squadrons to take their ladies or families with them is one of doubtful expediency; or it would be more correct to say, that it is highly inexpedient. A man-of-war on a cruise is no place for ladies, even in time of peace. If Commodores are gratified in this respect, there is no good or plausible reason why the commander of a single ship, and the junior officers likewise, should not be equally gratified. The case is not forgotten, and perhaps never will be, in which the presence of a lady on board one of our public vessels was nearly the cause of involving this country in a war.

But admitting that it may be proper or expedient to allow the Commodore of a squadron to have his family with him on ship board, the impropriety of doing so at the expense of the comfort of every other officer of the ship cannot be denied. It savors too much of favoring the few at the expense of the many—a principle which can never be safely adopted or approved in this country. The notions of our people are too democratical to countenance it for a moment. It must hence be apparent that the Department is acting in contradiction to the current of public opinion, if it persist in sustaining the present arrangement.

There are many who think there is no impropriety in permitting ladies to go to sea in public vessels, if it do not incommode the officers; and certainly their society will tend much to dispel the tediousness of a sea voyage; but the propriety of the practice is at best doubtful, and in such cases it is better to dispense with than to adopt it.

As connected with this subject, we add the explanation given in the Globe, no doubt published by authority. If it be intended that the ladies shall only take passage in the ship, and leave her after her arrival at some port in the Mediterranean, it should have been so explained to the officers, and they would have cheerfully submitted to a temporary inconvenience. But the officers would be more satisfied, if no innovation on a long established usage had been adopted.

Lieut. W. SCOTT KETCHUM has been appointed Adjutant of the 6th regiment of Infantry, *vice* J. P. HARRISON, resigned, to take effect from the 1st Oct.

CHAPLAINS FOR THE ARMY.—Having in our last number published the additional paragraph (5)—see G. O. No. 55—of the regulation of August 1st, announced in "GENERAL ORDERS," No. 29, of August 18th, we now republish the entire regulation, as amended, for general information, and the greater convenience of the service.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, August 1, 1838.

1. The council of administration, on being duly instituted, agreeably to Army Regulations, are empowered to employ, from time to time, such persons as they may think proper to officiate as Chaplain; and the name of the person so chosen and appointed will be reported by the commanding officer of the post to the War Office through the Adjutant General.

2. The Chaplain employed at any military post will be required to perform the duties of schoolmaster, under such regulations as may be established by the council of administration, approved by the commanding officer. He will teach and instruct the children of the private soldier, as well as of the officer.

3. The compensation of the Post Chaplain will be determined by the council of administration, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War; but his monthly pay will not exceed forty dollars, in addition to which, he will be allowed four rations per day, with fuel and quarters provided for a captain.

4. The military posts at which Chaplains are to be employed in conformity with the act of Congress, will be selected by the Secretary of war, and be announced in General Orders: the number is limited to twenty.

5. The "Council of Administration," which may be assembled to choose a Chaplain, shall be composed of the number of commissioned officers prescribed in paragraph 7, ARTICLE 32, General Regulations; unless the permanent garrison be less than two companies, when three commissioned officers, including the Surgeon, may constitute a full council: *Provided*, That the members of the council shall only be taken from the permanent garrison. A copy of the proceedings of the council, signed by the members, will be forwarded to the Adjutant General's office, by the commanding officer.

J. R. POINSETT.

We also publish the 18th section of the act of July 5th, authorizing the appointment of persons to officiate as chaplains, etc., on the perusal of which, as well as of the regulations, it will be seen that they are to be chosen by a full Council of Administration, and that such appointments rest entirely with the officers of the post, under the law, and not with the War Department, as in some cases, we understand, has been supposed. The approval of the Secretary of War is necessary under the provisions of the act only to determine the rates of compensation, which may be more or less, according to circumstances, but cannot exceed the maximum specified in the law.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the officers composing the council of administration at any post, from time to time, to employ such person as they may think proper to officiate as chaplain, who shall also perform the duties of schoolmaster at such post; and the person so employed shall, on the certificate of the commanding officer of the post be paid such sum for his services, not exceeding forty dollars per month, as may be determined by the said council of administration, with the approval of the Secretary of War; and, in addition to his pay, the said chaplain shall be allowed four rations per diem, with quarters and fuel.

POSTSCRIPT.

From the Baltimore Chronicle of this morning.
We regret to learn that Capt. JOSEPH J. NICHOLSON, U. S. navy, died of an apoplexy at 7 o'clock yesterday evening. At 2 P. M. he was in the street in fine health and spirits.

Correspondence of the Army and Navy Chronicle.

FORT COVINGTON, N. Y., Dec. 2, 1838.

MR. EDITOR: Having seen many publications concerning the circumstances under which a company of United States troops were fired upon while descending the St. Lawrence river, and all these publications being erroneous, I beg leave, through the medium of the Chronicle, to state to the public the facts as they are. Some of the accounts of that affair would lead the reader to suppose that the conduct of the British troops, on that occasion, was perfectly correct; and that they did nothing more than their duty; and, consequently, throwing censure upon the officer who commanded the American troops. As I am that officer, it is partly through justice to myself that I make the following statement.

Company "K," of the 8th regiment of United States Infantry, on its way from Sacket's Harbor to Fort Covington, N. Y., left Ogdensburgh at sun set, on the 6th of Nov., to descend the St. Lawrence river, in an open boat, just large enough to contain the stores of the company, and the men, when seated close together. Owing to circumstances, which it is now unnecessary to mention, the boat was unavoidably detained about thirty hours between Ogdensburgh and the head of the Long Sault. This time was sufficient for the news of our approach to go far in advance of us. About 10 o'clock on the morning of the 8th November we entered a pass on the American side, which is, I think, about two miles above Cornwall. The wind was very high, and being unfavorable, we were obliged to land, after running about half a mile below the mouth of Grass river, which empties into the pass above mentioned, near its head. During the time we were thus detained, which was about an hour and a half, a party of troops was sent from Cornwall on to the island opposite that place, to watch our movements. The weather was stormy, and the wind changed often. Taking advantage of a lucky change for us, we proceeded down the river. I suppose we had gone about half or three quarters of a mile from our landing, when we were fired upon from the British shore. We were in our own waters, and about one third of the way from our own to the opposite shore. The stream is quite narrow, and we were so near the British shore that we could easily have heard them had they hailed the boat in a loud tone; but they did not hail it, nor had they any right to do so, because it was in our territory. The first notice which we had of any one watching us, was the report of a rifle, the ball of which passed just before the bow of the boat, on which I was then standing. Immediately after the first shot, I heard a loud whoop, very much like that of an Indian, and immediately succeeding it, a volley of rifle shots, I think about ten or twelve in number. The boat was small, and the men were sitting crowded close together. For their safety, I directed the boat to be run to the shore, so that they might walk and be out of danger, until the boat should be out of gun shot range from the

Canada shore. Before reaching our shore, however, we received two more volleys. One ball of the last volley took effect, wounding Private Harrison severely, in the right shoulder. They continued to fire scattering shots until we were out of their reach. As we moved along down the river, the firing party walked along down the shore, until the increasing breadth of the river placed us beyond the range of their guns. At first they fired from behind trees, but when they showed themselves it was with considerable difficulty that I could restrain our men from returning the fire. Retaliation, I knew, would be highly improper, and would probably lead to serious difficulties. Such outrageous conduct as that of the British soldiers on this occasion, I did not suppose, for a moment, would be countenanced by the higher authorities, and should therefore be referred to them for its punishment. The company under my command wore the undress uniform of our army, and could not have been taken for any other than American troops, at the short distance at which we were fired upon, or at even a much greater distance. We could distinguish plainly the color of the dresses of those on the shore who were firing at us.

We landed in Racket river about half a mile from its mouth, and about a mile and a half from the place where we were fired on. About an hour after I landed, a *non-commissioned officer* was sent from Cornwall to explain the cause of the outrage. The amount of his explanation was, that they fired, supposing us to be *Radicals*. (They had no right to fire even on radicals, while in our territory, any more than upon regular troops.)

The next morning, Col. Vankoughnet was sent with a note from the commanding officer at Cornwall, (Col. Turner,) to the commanding officer at this post, (Capt. Montgomery.) Col. Vankoughnet and Capt. Montgomery met at St. Regis, where the note was delivered. The note stated that the party was composed of raw militia, and that in firing upon us, they had disobeyed the positive orders given to them by Col. Turner. Much regret was expressed for the transaction.

No American officer has been to Cornwall, making bitter complaints, as has been stated in some newspapers; nor for any other purpose.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

I. V. D. REEVE,
Lieutenant U. S. Army.

Subscribers at the Military Academy, West Point, whose terms expire with the present month, and who intend to renew, will confer a favor by paying the amount to Major LESLIE, Paymaster and Treasurer, instead of remitting by mail.

ARMY REGISTER—Corrected to the 1st Sept., 1838.—A few copies only remain for sale at this office.

* * * EARLY ORDERS for the Army Register for 1839 are respectfully solicited, to prevent disappointment to those who wish copies, as well as to determine the extra number to be printed.

NAVY REGISTER, for 1838.—A few copies for sale at a reduced price. Dec. 13—3t.

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.—An officer of this branch of the public service, in writing to us, says: "I would respectfully suggest that I find the officers in this branch of the service less inclined to subscribe for the Chronicle, in consequence of there being little information in regard to the Cutter service. I have often had this reply, when urging others to subscribe."

In explanation we would remark, that we publish the intelligence as often as we can get it; but owing to the small number of officers the changes are not frequent. We have to acknowledge our obligations to the gentleman attached to the Treasury Department, who has this business in charge, for his uniform readiness to furnish all the information in his power. In January next, we shall publish a corrected list of all the officers belonging to the Cutter establishment.

APPRENTICES IN THE MERCHANT SERVICE.—Mr. WOODBURY, in his late annual Report to Congress, says: "The employment of more boys in the merchant service is, in some degree, connected with the customs, on account of its tendency to afford additional protection to the lives and property engaged in commerce, as well to improve the morals of mariners, and prevent smuggling, mutinies, and piracies."

"The encouragement by law of such an acquisition to the marine of our country, by soon bringing into active usefulness a class of intelligent, virtuous, and able seamen, would tend materially to avert some of the numerous evils from that quarter, which now bear upon our commercial energy and prosperity."

The U. S. ship-of-the-line Ohio, Captain JOSEPH SMITH, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore ISAAC HULL, bound to the Mediterranean, sailed from New York on Thursday last, at noon, through the Gedney channel.

The list of officers published in the New York papers being incomplete, and no muster-roll having been received at the Department on Monday, we defer publishing the names until we can obtain a correct list.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.—Commodore WILLIAM B. SHUBRICK was appointed on the 5th inst. to the command of our squadron in the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico. The frigate Macedonian is designed as the flag ship of the squadron, and will be prepared for sea as early as practicable.

Capt. C. W. SKINNER has been relieved from the command of the steam ship Fulton, on account of ill health.

Capt. A. CLAXTON has been appointed Inspector of ordnance and ammunition belonging to the navy, vice Commodore SHUBRICK.

A General Naval Court Martial, of which Commodore L. WARRINGTON was President, convened on board the U. S. ship Java, at Norfolk, on the 30th Nov., 1838. Passed Midshipman LLOYD J. BRYAN was tried, and sentenced to be cashiered. Sentence approved Dec. 3, and carried into execution.

Major General SCOTT arrived at Louisville on the 28th Nov., and left the same evening; he was at Columbus, Ohio, on the 3d inst., and expected to be at Buffalo by the 15th.

The Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the official acts of Colonel J. B. BRANT, while acting as Quartermaster at St. Louis, convened in that city, on Wednesday, the 28th ult.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

Dec. 4—Lieut. T. B. Linnard, Top. Engrs.	Fuller's
5—Lieut. R. D. Wainwright, Ordn.	Col. W's
Lieut. J. P. Harrison, 6th Infy.,	Gadsby's.
6—Lieut. W. A. Brown, 3d Arty.,	Fuller's.
7—Lieut. M. S. Miller, do.	do.
10—Capt. M. M. Clark, A. Q. M.	do.
12—Lt. Geo. H. Pegram, 1st Infy.	Brown's.
13—Ass't. Surgeon Joseph Eaton,	Gadsby's.
Major John Garland, 1st Infy.	Fuller's.
Paymaster R. A. Forsyth,	do.

LETTERS ADVERTISED.

NORFOLK, Dec. 1, 1838.

NAVY—J. D. Elliott, care Capt. Thos. Webb, Lieuts. C. Heywood, V. M. Randolph, 2, ——— Worthington, Drs. Maulsby, Sinclair, Roache, Purser Etting, Midn. Waddell, Taliaferro, 2.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 1, 1838.

ARMY—Col. Gates, Capt. J. K. F. Mansfield, Lieut. W. T. Tartin, [Martin,] 2, Lieut. W. W. Pew, Lieut. W. H. Warner.

NAVY—Lieut. George N. Hollins, Lieut. E. P. [C.] Rutledge.

UNPAID LETTER REFUSED.—Pittsburgh, Dec. 8.

PASSENGERS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28, per brig Sophia Eliza, from Rio Janeiro, Mid. M. C. Perry, of the navy. Dec. 9, per ship Thamee, for Mobile, Capt. W. A. Thornton, of the army, lady and servant.

SAVANNAH, Nov. 28, per ship Macon, from New York, Capt. W. W. Morris and Lieut. Masten, of the army, with 85 U. S. troops. Nov. 27, per ship Orbit, from New York, Capt. W. W. Tompkins, of the army.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 20, per steamer Richmond, from Cincinnati, Purser H. Etting, of the navy. Nov. 22, per steamer Baton Rouge, from Bayou Sara, Capt. O. Cross, of the army. Nov. 28, per steamboat Western, from Cincinnati, Lieut. L. A. B. Walbach, of the army.

CHARLESTON, Nov. 29, per steampacket North Carolina, from Wilmington, Paymaster C. Andrews, of the army, lady and son. Dec. 1, per same, Capt. J. Bradley, and Lieut. M. S. Howe, of the army. Per steamboat Anson, from Black creek, E. Van Ness, acting Paymaster U. S. A. Dec. 3, per brig Arabian, from New Orleans, Capt. B. B. Screven, of the army, lady, two children and servant. Dec. 4, per steam packet New York, from Garey's Ferry, Capt. M. M. Clark, of the army.

St. Louis, Nov. 24, per steamboat Savannah, from Pittsburgh, Col. E. Cutler, Maj. J. D. Graham, Capt. J. H. K. Burgwin, with a detachment of Dragoons under his command, and Lt. J. M. Wells, of the army.

We learn that a ship, two brigs, and three schooners, are building at Baltimore for the Texas Government. The steam ship Charleston, now fitting out in our harbor, under the superintendence of Captain Pennoyer, is also intended for the protection of the Texas coast.—*New York Gazette.*

Two large French steam ships and a brig of war arrived at St. Jago de Cuba, 5th November, and after receiving on board a quantity of live stock, departed for Vera Cruz on the 7th, having on board scaling ladders, and all sorts of war fixings.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

SEMINOLE WAR.

From the Savannah Georgian.

FROM THE OKEFENOKEE.—We have been favored by a gentleman of this city, with the following interesting letter from Gen. Floyd, giving an account of that gallant officer having explored this hitherto inaccessible and unknown region. It will be seen that Gen. Floyd passed through it from S. W. to N. E., and that he has discovered the island which has hitherto served as a strong hold and lurking place to the blood-thirsty Indian, after his excursions of blood and murder.

TRADER HILL, Nov. 17th, 1838.

On the 5th inst. I left here with only four companies of my regiment, (one mounted, and the rest on foot,) for Fort Gilmer, on the Suwanee river, distant fifty-six miles, and arrived there on the 6th. On the 7th and 8th, examined the country, and proposed to enter the Okefenokee, which is twenty-one miles from Fort Gilmer. On the 9th, having added one company of U. S. Dragoons, (dismounted,) and two companies of volunteers to my small force, and stationed small detachments on the border of the Suwanee to prevent the escape of the enemy, I marched from Fort Gilmer for the Okefenokee, on the eastern bank of the Suwanee, and reached the edge of the swamp on the 10th, and on the same day built a picket fort for a depot for provisions, and called it Fort Tattnall. On the 11th sent back to Fort Gilmer my baggage train, cavalry horses, tent and camp equipage; and leaving a lieutenant and fifteen men at Fort Tattnall, entered the Okefenokee, and after marching about four miles, (half the distance through muddy and dismal swamps,) arrived at an island called by the Indians *Chepucky*. On this island is an old field and the remains of an Indian town, called *Chepuckytolofa*, which means *Chepucky's town*. On the western edge of the island is a small lake, which I suppose to be connected with the Suwanee near its source. Built a fort on the island and called it "Fort Walker," in compliment to a gallant officer. I entered the swamp at Fort Tattnall on what is called the old Mickasuky trail, which was followed by Capt. Beall last August, about three and a half miles into the swamp beyond Fort Walker. Being unprepared to go further, he turned back, having gone further into the swamp than any other white man up to that time. The trail followed by Capt. Beall was supposed to lead to an island about the centre of the swamp, celebrated in Indian tradition, and which he supposed to be (if it existed,) the head quarters of the enemy. Nov. 12th, sent one hundred men with a guard to bring in our provisions from Fort Tattnall to Fort Walker, on their shoulders, and slung on poles, the trail being impassable to horses.

This arduous duty was handsomely performed. 13th, marched from the island with about 250 men, leaving a captain and twenty-nine men at Fort Walker. Our course was N. E., with very little variation for 8½ hours, through one of the most horrible swamps on the face of the earth. Below us was mud and water (sometimes nearly waist deep) and roots and logs, and above were briars, vines and bushes, forming altogether obstacles that no language can accurately describe. Each man carried five days provisions, nothing else save his arms and ammunition. In the evening, (having marched by our calculation twelve or fourteen miles from Fort Walker,) we emerged from the swamp and entered the island which we sought, never before beheld by the eyes of white man. It was, as I expected, the head quarters of the enemy.

We found their camp and a town with comfortable houses, but the enemy had gone by their signs about two months ago. Encamped in a beautiful hammock of live oak and laurel trees. 14th, explored the island

and burnt the Indian town. The island (which my officers have named Floyd's island, and by which name it will hereafter be known) is about 20 miles long, very high, and shaped like a crescent, one end pointing to the west and the other to the north, the concave side fronting N. W. On this side of the island is an extensive prairie, level as a lake, and covered with short grass, and adorned with beautiful islands, from which (over the prairie) the woods on the border of the swamp may be seen about 20 miles to the S. W. and N. W. The Okefenokee, instead of being a barren waste, contains some of the best lands in Georgia. Floyd's island appears to divide the source of the Little St. Mary's river from the Suwanee. Deer, bear, and turkeys are very numerous on the island, and thousands of wild geese and ducks are on the prairies. In the deep swamps there is no sign of either deer or other large animals, and but few birds are seen.

15th. Sent one company back to Fort Walker, and marched early with the rest from the island, determined to force a passage, if possible, to the main land, in a N. E. direction. For eleven and a half hours we bogged through mud and water, sometimes entangled in vines, briars, and thickets, and sometimes in open ponds and prairies; at times we were bewildered, our provisions were nearly exhausted, and we were in a wilderness unknown to us; but I was determined not to turn back, so dreadful was the swamp over which we had passed. Several times I sent my men up trees to look out for land, for we felt as if we were on the ocean; and at last, near sunset, we were rejoiced at seeing the green tops of pine trees over the gloomy cypress, about five miles distant. It was long after dark before we emerged from the swamp, and when we reached dry land, we were the most miserable creatures that ever walked on two legs; wet, hungry, and nearly dead from fatigue. On the march several men were bogged so deep that it required two men to pull them out, and many on landing were without pantaloons and shoes, these articles being torn off by briars, roots, and quagmires. I marched at the head of the troops, carrying my haversack of provisions as a common soldier, and suffered greatly; but it is a satisfaction to me to have performed what all other men have deemed impossible: *to cross the Okefenokee with an army.*

Our course was through the middle of the swamp, from S. W. to N. E.; we came out about twelve miles north of Traders' Hill. The last day's march is computed to be eighteen or twenty miles. Our discoveries in the swamp will be of great utility; they will enable us hereafter to exclude the Indians from the Okefenokee, their hiding place for half a century; and will open to the citizens of Georgia new sources of wealth in the rich lands of the swamp.

To-morrow I shall march to Cox's Hammock, on the west side of the swamp, and commence operations at that point, intending to scour the western border of the swamp to Fort Gilmer. The departure of the Indians from Floyd's island justifies a report in circulation about a month ago, that they had gone to Western Florida. If any Indians are in the swamp they do not exceed forty or fifty, and are on the western border of the Okefenokee. My intention is to search every place. I shall establish a strong fort on Floyd's island, and make a road to it from Fort Walker, sufficiently good for pack horses. By holding the interior, the enemy will be forced to the border, where they can be easily found. I have placed all the regulars in this part of Georgia under my command, and find them very efficient.

MARITIME SCRAPS, or Scenes in the Frigate United States, during a cruise in the Mediterranean. 1 vol. 12mo. pp. 108.—This is a volume of "shreds and patches" by a man-of-war's-man, and contains some very graphic descriptions of the sailor's life on the ocean and on the land.—*Boston Post.*

PENSACOLA, Nov. 24.—The *Levant* and *Ontario* have dropped down to the yard preparatory to going to sea.

Some doubts having been expressed as to the disposition which is to be made of the command of the navy yard at this place, we have taken some pains to inform ourselves upon the subject, and the result is the most satisfactory information that so soon as Com. Dallas shall be relieved from the command of the squadron, he is to assume the command of the yard. This was determined on as early as August last, and Com. D. is now kept in command of the squadron, for the reason, as it is supposed, that he is more familiar than would be any other of his grade, with the delicate relations of our Government, which have grown out of the operations of the French against Mexico. It is still uncertain who will be appointed to the command of the squadron.—*Gazette*.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Nov. 24.—Captain S. McREE, Assistant Quartermaster, has entered upon duty at this post, *vice* Capt. WAITE, to northern frontier.

Maj. ASHBY, 2d Dragoons, has assumed command East of St. Johns.

Captain MICKLER's company of Florida Volunteers were mustered out of service by Maj. ASHBY, on 21st inst.

Capt. WASHINGTON, Lieuts. O'BRIEN and SOLEY, company B, 4th Artillery, have arrived at this post, to relieve company E.

Lieut. BRADFORD, company E. 4th Artillery, ordered to Volusia.

Lieut. S. H. DRUM, 4th Artillery, ordered to Picolata, to relieve Lieut. WOOSTER.

Fort Hanson has been re-occupied, upon application of several of our citizens, to Major ASHBY. The request was promptly complied with by Major Ashby, and Lieut. MAY and command are now its garrison.—*News*.

U. S. CIRCUIT COURT—YESTERDAY.

Before Judges THOMPSON and BETTS.

George W. Featherstonhaugh *vs.* Chs. G. Ridgely, Matthew C. Perry, Charles O. Handy, and William L. Hudson. This was an action brought by the Plaintiff, who officiated at Washington, under the title of United States Mineralogist, to recover damages of the Defendants, officers of distinction in the navy, for an alleged libel, published in a work entitled the *Naval Magazine*, published in this city. The case came up in order, and Hugh Maxwell, Esq., Counsel for the Plaintiff, stated that he was ready to proceed if the defence were willing to make certain admissions, of a witness now in Washington. The Counsel for the defence refused to make the required admissions, and the Court decided that no further indulgence could be granted to the Plaintiff in this case, and that the whole matter must be postponed till the next term.

The Jury were then discharged for the term, and the Court adjourned till this morning at 10 o'clock.—*New York Express*, Dec. 6.

On Friday last a company of U. S. troops, belonging to the 8th regiment, under the command of Capt. Gwynn, arrived here from Sackets Harbor. They are to be stationed at this place during the winter.—*Oswego N. Y. Herald*.

The joint special committee of the Georgia Legislature, appointed to investigate the charges alleged against Col. S. H. LONG, of the Topographical Engineers, and Chief Engineer of the State, in a memorial of the citizens of Cassville, have made a report to the Senate, most favorable to Col. LONG.

The Government of the United States has chartered the steamboat *Constitution*, Capt. Appleby, for service upon Lake Erie.

CANADA,

From the Globe.

We publish the following letters, in the hope that they will open the eyes of our deluded countrymen to the enormity of the conduct of those who have led them—or we ought rather to say have counselled them, for they were too prudent to do more—to invade Canada. When the victims of their wickedness and folly were in the mill near Prescott, they hoisted the white flag and imploringly waved it to our steamer as it passed by; but Col. Worth was compelled by stern duty to continue his course without relieving them. An opportunity was however afforded to their friends to rescue them that night, as we understand; but instead of profiting by it, their General contented himself with issuing such extravagant and incendiary orders as this:

"DEAR JOHNSON: The fate of the men who are on the other side of the river is in your hands. Nothing is expected of the British above Prescott, and if you can rally your men and go to Jones's Mills, and kindle some fires, you will save the men and save Canada. Start fires also at Ganaganen, and the British will think Kingston is to be attacked. Do, for God's sake, rally your men and start immediately
J. WARD BIRGE.

We earnestly hope that the conduct of those who counselled these lawless attacks upon the territory of a friendly power, no less than the melancholy catastrophe which has attended this open breach of our laws, will deter our fellow citizens on the northern frontier from again engaging in such flagrant violations of their most sacred obligations.

HEAD QUARTERS, MADISON BARRACKS,
November 24, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to forward copies of certain papers which, although not of an official character, enter into the history of the violent and tragical proceedings on this frontier. With great doubts of the propriety of my own conduct in having yielded even so far, unofficially, I submit the papers to your consideration.

The officer charged with delivering my communication was treated with every courtesy and respect, and such has reciprocally been the character of all our intercourse.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH,
Colonel Commanding.

The Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

OSWEGO, Nov. 20, 1838.

SIR: A large meeting of the citizens of this place convened last evening, after the arrival of the *Telegraph*, to take into consideration some measures in behalf of the unfortunate young men who have forfeited their lives to public justice by a participation in the late scenes at Prescott, upon the St. Lawrence. The meeting, we are informed, took no other order than to refer the subject to the undersigned, as a committee to digest and to carry into effect such measures as we might deem expedient. After deliberating upon the very delicate duty thus assigned to us by our fellow citizens, we have arrived at the conclusion that a direct intervention of any number of our citizens, either personally or by a formal address to the representatives of the royal authority in the province would be inadvisable. Individually, we have discountenanced and endeavored to restrain the violent and unlawful proceedings recently manifested so generally upon the frontier against the tranquillity of the Canadas, and the relations of peace and harmony so happily existing between our country and Great Britain. It is for this reason, we presume, the present duty has been committed to us. But we are apprehensive the Colonial authorities will

regard with jealousy and distrust any interposition of American citizens residing on the frontier, in an endeavor to avert the rigorous execution of the penalties of the law. We are but too sensible that any such intercession may with justice be regarded with suspicion. We, therefore, address ourselves to you, in the hope that you will consent to undertake for us the duties of an office, to the successful execution of which we feel ourselves, on many considerations, incompetent. Your character as a military man is well known to the Colonial authorities. The zeal and firmness you have displayed from the commencement of the troubles, in endeavoring to preserve our neutral obligations inviolate, to protect our national honor, and to enforce the laws of the Union, are known as well to the inhabitants of Upper Canada as to your own fellow citizens; and we believe your services and character are by them not less justly appreciated than by ourselves. The sympathies, too, which are appropriate and common to military men, would give to your intercession with the military authorities in the Province an influence which could not be anticipated from any efforts of ours.

It is not only because the unfortunate men captured at Prescott are for the most part American citizens that our sympathies are awakened for them. We are informed that many of them are youths, under age, who have been beguiled by false representations to embark in an enterprise, the criminal nature of which they did not comprehend, and in the dangers of which their betrayers have not participated. We are strongly persuaded that these youths were deluded into the belief that the enterprise was honorable, that it would be sustained by responsible characters, and seconded by a general insurrection of the inhabitants of the Province. It is impossible that they are not convinced of the grossness of the delusion. The men who have beguiled them into the commission of an outrage upon the laws of their own country, and instigated them to a lawless invasion of the territory of a friendly power, have themselves stood back from the scene of danger in the moment of trial, or from a distance in safety have witnessed the sacrifice of the miserable victims of their unscrupulous designs.

The result of the attempt upon Prescott will prove a corrector of public opinion. We are sensible already of a great and rapid change in the sentiments of our fellow citizens in regard to the moral character of the late enterprise. The illusions in relation to it are fading from their eyes, and we may justly expect that in a short time the people of the frontier, like those of the interior, will regard the recent agitations with no other sentiments than of sorrow and indignation.

We would then, sir, respectfully request that you will interpose your own personal intercession with the royal authorities in the province of Upper Canada for the extension of the royal clemency to the unfortunate youths whom we cannot but regard as the prey of insidious designers. We are sensible that we ask nothing to which your own feelings will not respond, and sincerely hope that nothing we suggest will be regarded by you as incompatible with your military position in command of this section of the frontier.

We place this communication entirely at your disposal, to be applied in any manner you may deem advisable in relation to the object it contemplates.

With high respect, sir, &c.

GEO. A. McWHIRTER,
HENRY FITZHUGH,
JAMES PLATT,
ALVIN BRONSON,
T. S. MUSSAN,
JOSEPH HUNT.

To Col. W. J. WORTH,

8th regiment commanding, &c.

SACKET'S HARBOR, Nov. 23, 1838.

SIR: By the mail of this date, I received a communication, of which I have the honor to forward you a copy. This paper is signed by gentlemen of the highest intelligence and respectability among our citizens, who, as they represent, have earnestly sought to check the headlong career of the unfortunate dupes of designing demagogues, the objects of their petition.

This appeal places me in a painful and embarrassing position. On the one hand, to seek, by an official interposition to stay or divert the free course of justice, however fruitless the effort, would justly subject me to the censure of the Government. So on the other, I could hardly excuse myself to my countrymen, nay, to my own heart, totally to disregard the humane designs and wishes of those who ask me to become the medium of communication.

Thus circumstanced, I approach you with the frankness which belongs to our profession.

I cannot better favor the object of the petitioners, than by forwarding a copy of their communication, which as clearly, as justly, and as truly, sets forth the circumstances of the delusion and fraud practised upon the miserable youth, who have, thus acted upon, forfeited their lives, and subjected themselves to an ignominious death. The delusion has vanished, and not a doubt remains that speedy vengeance will follow the great criminals in this foul business.

I can only add, sir, the firm conviction that clemency extended to the wretched victims of baseness and duplicity will, while illustrating the humane and merciful policy of her Majesty's Government, have the happiest effect in restoring, as we all desire, kindly relations along the entire border, and greatly tend to the ends of justice, by exposing and holding up to scorn, contempt, and punishment, the great villains in this most unparalleled assault upon a friendly power.

With sentiments of respect,

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH.

To the Commander of Her Majesty's military and naval forces, Kingston, Upper Canada.

KINGSTON, Nov. 23, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, with the other documents which accompany it. As my authority does not extend in any degree to the remission or infliction of any punishment to which the prisoners taken at Prescott have subjected themselves, by the laws of the country, any appeal to me can have little effect in producing any change in the position in which the prisoners are placed. Planned and organized as the expedition appears to have been, it is scarcely possible to believe the statements of these persons, that they have been duped and deceived into the conduct of which they have been guilty. An examination of the prisoners is at present in progress, whose several statements will be submitted to the consideration of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to whom alone belongs the right of carrying into effect the sentence of the law, or extending clemency to those prisoners, whose cases may appear on the trial to recommend them for favorable consideration. After injuries in person and property that the subjects of her Britannic Majesty have suffered from the lawless and savage attacks of these persons, it cannot be otherwise than expected that they should call for a prompt and just administration of the law; and while the high character of the officer charged by her Majesty with the administration of the Government in this province is a full guarantee that he will act in the present trying circumstance with firmness and decision, so it is well known that, in consonance with his own feelings, his humane and benevolent

disposition, supported by a strict sense of duty, he will in the fullest sense temper justice with mercy, and to whose consideration I shall lose no time in forwarding the documents you have transmitted to me.

I have the honor to remain, sir,

H. DUNDAS,

Lt. Col. 83d regiment, Commandant.

Colonel WORTH,

Commandant, Sacket's Harbor.

We are happy to have it in our power to state that the commanding officer of her Britannic Majesty's forces near Cornwall, Upper Canada, Colonel C. B. Turner, as soon as he was informed by Col. Worth that our steamboat Telegraph, while descending the St. Lawrence, carrying a detachment of our regular soldiers, had been fired upon by a party of British troops, despatched the Hon. Col. Vaukoughnet with a note to the commanding officer of our troops at French Mills to explain the circumstance, stating that a few raw militia soldiers had been sent out by him to watch the movements of the boats, with orders to conceal themselves as much as possible, and on no account to fire a shot, and expressing his entire regret at the circumstance; more particularly at hearing that a soldier had been wounded.—*Globe.*

MILITIA AFFAIRS.

Extracts from the Annual Messages of the Governors to the Legislatures of the States.

GOV. P. M. BUTLER, SOUTH CAROLINA.

The care of the State Militia includes a large share of the duties of your Executive. I have therefore held it throughout the term of my service, in especial regard, and have watched with much solicitude the operation of the several provisions you have made for the improvement of this important arm of defence. I have reviewed every regiment of infantry in the State, (46 in number,) and six out of the seven regiments of cavalry.

To the much wit and sarcasm that ingenuity has arrayed against the militia service, it would be quite out of place here to answer. The soldier of twelve days in the year, will be hardly compared, in skill or discipline, with the soldier by profession, and by the practice of a lifetime; but if the best militia are only very imperfect soldiers, what would you expect from the worst? And let it be remembered that good or bad, ignorant or intelligent, spirited or without spirit, as your wise or careless legislation may affect them, the militia are still your only means of protection. In the appeal to force, which every State, pretending to the character of independence, must be prepared to meet, they are your only argument, and you must make the most of it. The militia are not unimprovable. They have improved and are improving. In many parts of the country the militia are every thing that could be reasonably desired. This excellence has generally been the result of the spirited exertions of individual officers, whose zeal and activity deserve to be encouraged by the Representatives of the State. When this species of public service shall be rewarded with its proper measure of approbation, the difficulty will at once cease of maintaining a well organized militia.

The system of encampments has wrought the best effects. Its success has been such that the inconveniences still arising from defects in an experiment comparatively new, should only urge us to a diligent inquiry for the means to obviate them. In this spirit I beg leave to recommend to your consideration, 1st, the purchase of a suitable parade ground for each brigade; and 2d, the issue of rations to officers attending encampments. The first of these propositions, though apparently of little importance, will be of essential advantage in effect. At present the convenience or caprice of individuals may at any moment defeat the orders of the Com-

mander-in-Chief, and frustrate the intentions of the law. The adoption of this measure will also give an air of permanence to the system. The issue of rations will relieve considerably the burden of private expense, in attending the encampments, and will initiate the soldier into a department of military affairs, which it is somewhat important he should understand. It will also tend to the better ordering of the camp, and will facilitate the enforcing of discipline. Estimates are herewith submitted of the probable expense of this provision, which is, in my opinion, too small to be weighed against its many advantages. It is also very desirable for the perfection of our military system, that a digest should be made of the Militia Laws, suited rather for the instruction of officers, than the reference of lawyers. The Adjutant and Inspector General presents a combination of education and talent especially well adapted to such a service. For this purpose the Adjutant General might, without material prejudice to his other duties, be relieved for one year, from attendance on the reviews.

In regard to our fire arms and other munitions of war, circumstances have induced me to institute a thorough examination which has resulted in the conviction, that we should depend as far as possible for our supply of these articles on ourselves, or on sources within our control. I have the honor to submit to you the report of a Board of Inspectors, appointed to examine the arms and ammunition belonging to the State, in the arsenal at Charleston. It appears that the ammunition obtained generally from abroad, is not to be trusted in, frequently containing peas and corn, instead of ball and buckshot, and the like frauds. The muskets—as well those imported from England, and from the North, as from the United States factories—are, for the most part, good for nothing and dangerous. The old cartridges have by my order been broken up, and a full supply of very superior quality, has been prepared by Captain Charles Parker, of the Magazine Guard, at Charleston; but in regard to the arms, I have been able to do nothing more than exercise extreme vigilance in purchasing. It is due to the United States Government to acknowledge that the objectionable arms received from their factories were promptly exchanged for others. These last have not yet been thoroughly inspected, but there is reason to fear that they are not much better than those returned.

GOV. L. W. BOGGS, MISSOURI.

At the request of Major General Gaines of the United States army, I submit to the consideration of the Legislature, the accompanying diagram of his system of railroad, intended for national defence; together with a communication from him explanatory of the same.

Since the adjournment of the last General Assembly, the militia of our State have been re-organized and the number of divisions and brigades considerably increased. It has been found to be much more convenient for the transmission of orders, and affords the people a better opportunity of becoming acquainted with the qualifications of those whom they are authorized to select for the higher grades of command.

It will become necessary for the Legislature to make some provision for the payment of the volunteers and militia that have on different occasions been called into the service of the State: in order to do so, you will have to resort to other means besides that of the ordinary revenue of the State.

The defence of the western frontier is a subject of great importance to the people of this State. I have the gratification to inform you that the General Government has increased the army of the United States with a view to this object, and are taking all the necessary measures to insure its complete defence from the Sabine to the St. Peters.

NAVY.

ORDERS.

- Dec. 5.—Mid. N. Crisel, West India squadron.
 6—Carpenter F. Sagee, Navy Yard, Philadelphia.
 Mid. C. W. Hays, Receiving Ship, Boston
 7—Lieuts. E. L. Handy, F. Chatard, and T. R. Rootes, Brazil squadron.
 Mid. S. D. Trenchard, Naval School, N. York.
APPOINTMENT.
 Dec. 6.—Jarvis McDuffie, of N. H., Professor of Mathematics.

RESIGNATIONS.

- Dec. 5.—Francis Bartlett, Passed Midshipman.
 6—William A. Whitfield, Midshipman.
Officers ordered to the frigate Macedonian.
 Captain BEVERLY KENNON; Lieutenants, S. B. Wilson, A. E. Downes, F. A. Neville, S. B. Bissell, J. C. Sharpe, Z. Holland; Surgeon, Thomas L. Smith; Assistant Surgeons, S. R. Addison, J. Huntington; Purser, E. T. Dunn; Master, J. C. Walsh; Professor of Mathematics, Jarvis McDuffie; Passed Midshipmen, C. Steedman, M. Stokes; Midshipmen, C. Wager, J. L. Nelson, A. H. Jenkins, M. K. Warrington, J. D. Usher, J. C. Febiger; G. D. Lemoine, W. A. Webb; Boatswain, Charles Matthews; Gunner, Chs. Wade; Carpenter, Daniel Caswell; Sailmaker, James R. Childs.

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.

PROMOTIONS.

- Green Walden to be Captain, Nov. 21, 1833.
 Thomas Sands, to be First Lieut. do do

APPOINTMENTS.

- Frederick A. Barstow, to be 3d Lieut. Nov. 9, 1833.
 John L. Prouty, do do do 26, 1833.

DEATH.

- Joseph Gold, Captain, 1 Dec. 1833.

RESIGNATIONS.

- William A. Howard, Captain, 10 Nov., 1833.
 Farnfold Green, Captain, 12 Dec.

DROPPED.

- John W. Hunter, Jr., 2d Lieut., 26 Nov., 1833.

ORDERS.

- Capt. Carrier, to the Madison, Portsmouth, 30 Oct., 1833.
 " Rudolph, Jackson, Savannah, 19 Nov., "
 " Walden, Morris, Portland, 21 " "
 " Bicker, Rush, N. York, 8 " "
 " *Polk, Washington, " 8 Dec., "
 " Green, Gallatin, Delaware, 7 " "
 1st Lieut. Grover, Jefferson, Mobile, 1 Sept., "
 " Frazer, Washington, N. Y., 8 Nov., "
 " Sands, Jackson, Savannah, 21 " "
 2d Lieut. McLean, Campbell, Florida, 21 Sept. "
 " Clarke, Taney, Norfolk, 8 Nov. "
 " Fulton, Washington, N. Y., 8 " "
 " Walker, Jackson, Savannah, 12 " "
 3d Lieut. Chaddock, Washington, N. Y., 8 " "
 " Barstow, do do 12 " "

Cutter Hamilton, Lt. Com'dt Sturgis, at Halifax, Nov. 29, to sail next day in search of the steam ship Liverpool; returned to Boston, Dec. 3

Cutter Dexter, Capt. Day, at Charleston, Dec. 4, from a cruise on the coast of Georgia, surveying and buoying out the harbor of Brunswick and the different harbors on that coast.

Cutter Jackson, Lt. Com'dt Sands, sailed from Norfolk, Dec. 8, for Savannah.

*Capt. Polk relieved from this command at his own request, 12th Nov., 1833.

MARRIAGES.

In Boston, on the 15th ult. Lieut. HENRY MOOR, of the U. S. navy, to Miss ANN N. LYON.

In Philadelphia, on the 22d ult., JOHN HALL, of the U. S. navy, to MARY K. HARRIS.

In Chicago, Ill., on the 7th ult., J. K. GREENOUGH, Esq., of Terre Haute, Ind., and late of the U. S. army, to Miss ELIZA, daughter of Gen. JAMES WHITLOCK, formerly Register of the Land Office, at Chicago.

DEATHS.

In Fredericksburg, Va., on the 27th ult., RICHARD B. MAURY, Esq., formerly Register of the Navy Department.

At Wirtland, near Monticello, Florida, on the 11th Nov., in the 6th year of his age, WILLIAM WIRT, only son of Lieut. L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH, of the navy.

At Pittsburgh, on the 23d ult., in the 5th year of her age, LOUISA CHILDS, youngest daughter of Major Wm. WADE, formerly of the army.

At the Naval Hospital, Washington, on the 3d inst., REUBEN JAMES, seaman.

In New York, on the 4th inst., Miss ELIZABETH F. HAVILAND, aged 26 years, adopted daughter of Capt. M. P. Mix, U. S. navy.

In Baltimore, on the 10th inst., Capt. JAMES A. CHAMBERS, of the 2d regiment of artillery, and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. A.

NOTICE.

PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the Commissary General of Purchases at Philadelphia, to furnish materials for making ARMY CLOTHING, for the year 1839, and for sundry articles ready-made, as hereafter enumerated, viz:

Blue Cloth 6-4 wide, dyed in indigo and in the wool.

Sky-blue Kersey, 6-4 wide.

Unbleached Cotton shirting, 7-8 wide.

Flannel of Cotton and Wool, 7-8 wide.

Canton Flannel, 3-4 wide.

Unbleached Cotton Drilling, 3-4 wide.

do do do 7-8 wide.

Bleached do do 3-4 wide.

Uniform Caps for Dragoons.

do do Artillery and Infantry.

Pompoons, White.

do Scarlet.

Hair Plumes.

Bands and Tassels.

Aiguillettes, (white and yellow.)

Worsted Sashes, (crimson and yellow.)

Shoulder Straps for Artillery.

do do Infantry.

Brass do do Dragoons.

Epaulettes, Non. Com'd Staff, Infantry and Artillery.

Forage Caps for Infantry and Artillery.

do do Dragoons.

Laced Bootees—pairs.

Leather Stocks.

Woollen Half Stockings.

Plates and Tulips for Dragoon Caps.

Infantry Cap Bugles, Plates and Tulips.

Artillery Cap Plates and Cannon.

Felling Axes.

Hatchets.

Drums.

Wall and Common Tents.

Strapping Knapsacks.

Worsted Binding and Cord, of all kinds, and Prussian Lace.

(The quantity and number of these articles will be determined hereafter.)

Casks and Cooperage for one year, from 1st April, 1839.

The whole are to be domestic manufactured materials.

Patterns of all the required Cotton and Woollen Cloths and articles, are deposited in the Commissary General's Office, in this city, for examination. Samples of any of the Woollen and Cotton Cloths, will be sent to any manufacturer, on application to this office, (by mail) and such information in relation to the goods as may be desired.

The Bootees are to be of eight sizes, and the Caps of five sizes. The sizes and proportions of sizes will be stated in the contracts. On the samples and patterns exhibited, the contracts will be founded and inspections made; and no article will be received that is inferior in the material or workmanship, or that does not correspond in every respect with the pattern on which a contract is founded. The supplies are to be delivered at the United States Arsenal, near Philadelphia, for inspection, in equal monthly portions, and the contracts are to be fulfilled on or before the 1st day of July, 1839.

The proposals must be in writing, sealed and endorsed "Proposals," and must reach the office of the Commissary General of Purchases on or before the 7th January, 1839. Security will be required for the fulfilment of contracts.

C. IRVINE,

Commissary General of Purchases.

COMMISSARY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 Philadelphia, December 7th, 1833. } Dec. 13—4t